

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Lebanon

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 10 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Communist Activities in Connection
with the Trial of Mustafa 'Aris

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. On 3 February 1949 the Communist Party of Lebanon issued orders to all Communist sections to gather on 5 February in front of the Court House in Beirut, when the Court of Justice would pass sentence on Mustafa 'Aris and his comrades.* These instructions stated in part: "Despite the terrorism and pressure which the Suro's Generale will use, demonstrations must be staged for Mustafa 'Aris and his comrades, even though this might cause the imprisonment of all the demonstrators and the Communists." The instructions were distributed by Fu'ad Nasir-al-Din, who works at the printing press of Hasan 'Itani and Murtaz Khatib, on al-Ha'rad Street. The Lebanese Government heard of this and took severe measures to prevent any gatherings on 5 February.
2. The Communists have been active since the arrest of 'Aris, Nimr, and their comrades, in sending telegrams of protest, and in trying to hold demonstrations, without much success because of the countermeasures taken by the Government and the League of Unions. The Communists recently pasted pictures of 'Aris on walls, particularly in the Ashrafiyyah, al-Mazra'a, and Rumayl areas of Beirut, and on the tram stops in the Bourge district. On 2 February Nasri Haddad, Tawfiq Nabhan, Khalil Sha'yah, Karim Mansur, Emil Shirali, Tanios Is'haq, and Khalil Abu-'Amar were arrested for posting handbills, and were referred to the court that has jurisdiction over press affairs and sentenced to fifteen days imprisonment for violating "the Press Law." Source states that Communist Party leaders intend to create agitation which will be reported abroad, in order to raise the prestige of the Party.

* [REDACTED] Comment. In November 1948 Mustafa 'Aris, Nasib Nimr, and others were arrested for demonstrating in front of the UNESCO building. On 5 February 'Aris and seven others were sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and, as they had already been in prison for more than that period awaiting trial, were released, while the others who had been arrested at the same time were acquitted.

CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. CH. 10: TS S C

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